

Combat Sports Authority of Maine

Minutes

Date of Meeting: Monday, April 6, 2026

Location: Westbrook Community Center and virtually via Zoom

Facilitator: Steve Wallace

1. Welcome/Role Call. *The meeting was called to order at 5 pm with the following Commissioners present: Darcie K., John L., Nick G., Steve W. (Jon P. was excused). Also in attendance from the AG's Office: Randy Dow*
2. Secretary's Report: *Nick noted a minor correction regarding his name spelling (Nick Gulley vs. Nick Gulliver). The minutes were approved with a 3-0-1 vote*
3. Treasurer's Report: *John Levitt presented the Treasurer's Report, highlighting current account balances: Standard checking: \$38,853.23; Business shares: \$6,921.19; Total: \$42,774.42. The report resolved a significant billing issue with AAG, where Steve Wallace had paid \$23,606.71 to bring the organization current with the state of Maine (the original bill of \$50,979.50 was actually two years combined). The report was approved as presented 4-0-0.*
4. Updates from AAG/Complaint Officer
AAG Randy Dow provided updates on rulemaking for Muay Thai, indicating the rules were ready to be finalized within 45 days, and discussed the process for handling pending suspensions and complaints. Randy explained the complaint process for pending suspensions, noting that complaints need to be sent to certificate holders for response before the board can review and make recommendations. He clarified that while the board has jurisdiction over certified individuals acting in unauthorized capacities, unlicensed individuals practicing without certification would be referred to the Attorney General's office for potential civil or criminal prosecution. Randy also explained that prior unlicensed practice would be considered in future licensing decisions if individuals later sought certification. AAG also noted during the complaint procedure discussion, any prior unlicensed practice or rule violations will be considered during the renewal/application process, even if those individuals weren't subject to board jurisdiction at the time of the violation. Finally, Randy discussed the development of a Board Member Code of Conduct. Randy explained that while other boards typically don't have enforceable codes due to limited authority, the CSAM board's unique field work requirements make this particularly complex. After reviewing existing standards and finding that other sports commissions don't have codes for commissioners, the group agreed to use the existing governor's guidelines focusing on high ethical values, integrity, and mutual respect. The governor's standards state: Board members are of the highest quality, represent the best interests of Maine people, and must conduct themselves with high ethical values and integrity, working together cooperatively and treating each other with respect.
5. Old Business.

- a. Pending Action - NEF Fight Update
Special Meeting set for April 20th to review card.
- b. FYI - Prior Chair Recognition
No further action is needed; NEF will recognize past commission members.
- c. FYI - July Karate Event
This is a tournament style event and fundraiser. After discussion, Authority members concluded no bouts will take place that fall under the Authority's discretion.
- d. CSAM Email Addresses
Steve will make with new domain "combatsportmaine.com" and make email addresses for Authority members.

6. New/Upcoming business

Several topics were discussed. Discussion included policy areas identified for development: (1) CT scan timing requirements, (2) cut man certification and training on proper use of ointments, (3) corner conduct rules (no hanging on cage, must stay seated), (4) locker room access control, (5) photography/videography consent policies, (6) venue-specific locker room limitations (e.g., Portland Expo has tight spaces that may require fewer discretionary members). (7) Wristband System Implementation. The board discussed implementing a color-coded wristband system to better control and identify individuals in the locker room. Proposed color scheme White wristbands: Fighters; Red wristbands: Corners (clearly labeled); Blue wristbands: Locker Room Access (coaches, hand wrappers, trainers who are not corners).

The board emphasized that these written policies need to be developed and implemented with stakeholders. The philosophy is to write a clear policy, educate participants/stakeholders, and then enforce the rules. This is particularly important in light of an \$8 million settlement against a commission for not following their own policies.

Note: Darcie spoke with John English who offered to provide slides from recent inspector training that could be attached to applications. Applicants would sign acknowledging they understand the requirements and responsibilities of their role.

7. Updates from board/Public comment.

Children's Grappling Exhibition Protocols. Darcie raised a question about a rumor that children might grapple or wrestle before the upcoming NEF fights. Key regulatory concern: Minors (under 18) cannot be in locker rooms with adults according to current regulations. Status and resolution: NEF confirmed this is NOT happening at the upcoming May 16th fights, though it has occurred at previous events as a wrestling exhibition (not adult competition). The board clarified that if such exhibitions are planned in the future: (1) Venue accommodation must be considered to ensure minors are kept separate from adult locker rooms, (2) The commission must be notified in advance, (3) The board supports youth participation in combat sports and sees value in showcasing the "next generation" of fighters. Darcie expressed enthusiasm for children's grappling exhibitions as a way to promote the sport and develop future talent like Caleb Hall.

Armored MMA Medieval Cage Fighting Discussion. Nick raised questions about an upcoming event scheduled for May 30th called "Armored MMA Medieval Cage Fighting." Event description: Participants wear armor (like knights) and fight in a cage using swords, while also punching and kicking. Nick will forward detailed information about the event to the full board. Steve will consult with Mike Mazzoulli (former ABC president) to get his opinion on regulatory authority and approach. The board will need to determine if this requires regulatory oversight. The board acknowledged they need to determine where the line is between regulated combat sports and unregulated activities.

A public comment was also made about the quality of one of the fighters/gyms on the NEF 66 fight card.

8. Next scheduled meetings: *Special Meeting on April 20th; regularly scheduled meeting on May 4, 2026*
9. Adjourn. *The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 6:24 pm.*